



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

www.dfg.ca.gov
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-7667



March 27, 2007

Re: Nominations for the 2007-2008 Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan
Science Advisory Team

Dear Interested Parties,

Planning for the second study region of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative is beginning, and I am seeking nominations for members of the 2007-2008 Master Plan Science Advisory Team (Science Team).

Background

As you may know, the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) directs the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to review the existing array of marine protected areas (MPAs) and improve upon it in order to, among other things, protect marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage and ensure that MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network. In 2004, the Resources Agency, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation formed the MLPA Initiative to achieve the goals of the MLPA. The first phase of this process was completed in the central California coast study region.

In 2007-2008, the MLPA Initiative will focus on developing MPA proposals in the north central coast study region from Alder Creek (near Point Arena) to Pigeon Point. A Blue Ribbon Task Force (Task Force) composed of respected public policy leaders has been established to oversee the MLPA Initiative and recommend a network of MPAs for the north central coast study region to the Fish and Game Commission.

Charge

The Science Team will provide the scientific knowledge and expert opinion necessary to assist the Department and help advise the Task Force in developing alternative MPA proposals. The Science Team will address scientific issues or questions presented to them, including reviewing draft documents,

alternative MPA proposals, and scientific papers. The Science Team will review MPA proposals developed by a regional stakeholder group and analyze them using established scientific guidelines.

In the course of assisting the Task Force and the Department, the Science Team will refrain from making policy judgments. Instead, the Science Team shall frame and refer policy questions to the Task Force whenever the available science presents options or uncertainty. Guidance from the Science Team on the design of an improved system of MPAs becomes effective through adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission of the California Master Plan for MPAs, as required in the MLPA.

Guidance developed by the previous Science Team was adopted by the Commission in August 2005. The 2007-2008 Science Team may propose revisions or augmentations to that guidance for consideration by the Department, which may in turn transmit the proposed revisions with recommendations to the Task Force and Commission.

Membership and Duties

After considering all nominations, and in consultation with the Secretary for Resources, the President of the Fish and Game Commission, and the Chair of the Task Force, I will appoint the Science Team members. The Science Team will include members knowledgeable in marine ecology, marine fisheries, marine protected areas, economics, and social sciences. The total team shall be no more than 15 members.

The Science Team members are expected to attend regularly scheduled public meetings and serve at my pleasure through December 2008. Science Team members will designate a chair or co-chairs, and assign four to six members to serve as the Science Team Sub-Team to the north-central coast project. Members of the Science Team will, upon request, be reimbursed for actual travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time.

Nominations

To submit a nomination, please send a letter not longer than two pages explaining the qualifications of your nominee with the full contact information. Please indicate their interest/availability and attach their curriculum vitae or resume, if possible. All nominations must be received at one of the addresses below by close of business on April 11, 2007.

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Email: jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov
Subject: MLPA Science Team Nominations

Mail: John Ugoretz, Habitat Conservation Program Manager
California Department of Fish and Game
Attn: MLPA Science Advisory Team Nominations
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to receiving your nominations for the MLPA Science Advisory Team.

Sincerely,

L. Ryan Broddrick
Director